1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



a needle. The *Japaneſe* certainly uſed to come and trade to the *Kurilſki* iſlands, for I found there a *Japaneſe* ſabre, a japanned waiter, and ſilver ear-rings, which could be brought from no other place.

Of all the curioſities made by theſe wild people with their ſtone knives and hatchets, nothing ſurpriſed me ſo much as a chain of whales' bones, found in an empty hut near the *Tchukotſkoi* Noſs, made of different links as ſmooth as if they had been turned, about a foot and a half long, and formed out of one tooth. It is very extraordinary that any of theſe wild people ſhould with nothing but ſtone inſtruments have been capable of making ſo curious a piece of workmanſhip, which was worthy of the beſt artiſt.

They have two methods of making their boats; one ſort of which is called *koaibtahta*, and the other *tahta*. The former do not differ from our fiſhermens' boats, except that the prow and ſtern are higher, and the ſides lower. The tahta has the prow and ſtern of an equal height; the middle is not bent out, but rather falls in, which makes it very inconvenient, eſpecially when there is any wind, as being very ſoon filled with water. They uſe the koaihtahta only upon the river *Kamtſchatka*, but the tahta in moſt other places. When any planks are ſewed upon the tahta they are called baidars, which are uſed by the inhabitants upon the *Bobrovoi* or Beaver ſea in purſuing the ſea animals. They ſplit theſe baidars, and ſewing them with whales' beards caulk them with moſs or nettles beat ſoft. The *Kuriles* of the iſlands and thoſe that live upon the *Lopatka* build the baidars with a keel, to which they ſew planks with whales' beard, and caulk them with moſs. In *Kamtſchatka* they make their boats of poplar wood only; but the *Kuriles*, having no proper wood of their own, are obliged to make uſe of what is thrown on ſhore by the ſea, and which is ſuppoſed to come from the coaſt of *Japan*, *America*, or *China*. The northern inhabitants of *Kamtſchatka*, the

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal



133 515 that the hand could not be borne in it. Of these, as in Japan, there are many throughout the country, and they are greatly used for bathing purposes. At Malka, between Narchiki and Gunal, there is a spring of sulphurous water of great heat, in close proximity to another which is said even during the summer to stand steadily at the freezing point. We were, however, unable to visit it, and turned northward, passing across a *tûndra* nine miles in length, and uninteresting enough in such weather. We had the pleasure, however, of seeing Vodki deposited in five feet of water in consequence of having fallen asleep upon his horse, but it must be confessed that our amusement was somewhat damped by discovering that our own personal baggage had suffered a like immersion.

We camped once more in a birch-wood, and but for the proximity of these trees we should have had no little difficulty in making a fire, as the forest was dripping wet. 322 824 531 The birch is to the inhabitant of northern regions very much what the bamboo is to the native of the south. It is his general-utility tree, and without it he would indeed be badly off. The stem is used in the construction of the sledges, and the inner bark is said to be cut green and used for food. From the knotty parts of the wood good spoons are made, while the multifarious uses to which the smooth and pliant bark is adapted in the construction of dishes, cups, and vessels of all kinds are so well known by every northern traveller as to need no description. The boxes are often much

BIRCH-BARK BOX.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal



322 ornamented with stamped designs, and are occasionally painted, or
531 rather dyed, with blue and white; while the oval shape so commonly seen in Scandinavia is not infrequent. To the European traveller the tree is equally useful. Cups and other articles can be made with the greatest readiness; fires can be lighted in the wettest weather with the thin inflammable bark, and the inner layers of the latter form excellent writing-paper, the characters on which no quantity of rain will injure or render illegible.

133 The scenery some miles north of Narchiki begins to alter in
136 character, an alteration that is distinctly for the better. The monotony of the birch-forests is relieved from time to time by openings where the dense undergrowth is supplanted by little rocky knolls covered with bright mosses. The ground becomes more broken and the open spaces larger, and before long the country approximates closely in character to that which, in Scandinavia, would be designated the lower fjells. We had hitherto shot but little game, but here ptarmigan were abundant,[1] and we were able with ease to secure as many as were necessary for the table. Farther on, we came to a small stream, which was, most probably, an affluent of the Great Bolcheresk River, which debouches into the Okhotsk Sea on the western coast of the peninsula. It was crowded with dead and dying fish; and the remnants of some recently devoured ones upon the bank, together with fresh spoor of bear around them, told us that, in all probability, Bruin was not far off.

I had never before seen the tracks of this animal in such abundance, but farther north it was common enough to see the river-banks as much trampled as if a herd of cattle had been driven down to water. The bears at this season of the year live entirely upon salmon. Later, when this diet fails them, they take to berries, upon which they live until the time of hybernation, which is generally

[1] Probably a sub-species of, or perhaps identical with, the Dal-ryper or Willow Grouse of Scandinavia (*Lagopus albus*). I unfortunately omitted to preserve specimens of this bird until it was too late, and we did not shoot any after we had once begun the river journey.